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Louisiana

CONSERVATIONIST

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Governor of Louisiana



F. L. CLEMENT
Director

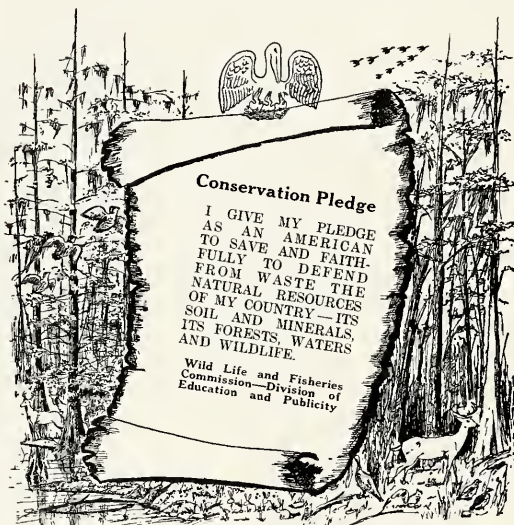
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EDITORIAL

ol. 10, No. 11

IN THIS ISSUE



IE FABULOUS MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY	2
0,000 WATERFOWL IN LOUISIANA.....	4
ISNER PUBLIC SHOOTING AREA OPEN.....	8
PTEMBER IS BUSY MONTH FOR ENFORCEMENT DIVISION ...	10
EW OUTBOARD BOATING LAW PASSED BY LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE ..	14
SHING FEVER	17
HE NEW CONIBEAR TRAP....	18
ARKET FOUND FOR NUTRIA MEAT.....	20
U GETS GRANT.....	22



COVER

Getting set for the Louisiana waterfowl season.

—Photo by Edouard Morgan

By F. LAMAR CLEMENT, Director

Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission

This hunting season, as is always the case, to the ranks of the millions of adult hunters there will be added more than four million boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 17 who will take to the field with their elders to participate in America's most time-honored sport . . . hunting. In the fields, in duck blinds, and in the marshes and swamps, these sprouting young Americans, under the watchful eyes of the more experienced, will be seeking to harvest their share of our fertile country's game crops.

The fact that four million youngsters will be turned loose with firearms causes little alarm because the fact that they are able to handle such lethal weapons is a tribute to the "Dads" of the nation who have taken time out and gone out into the fields with their sons and daughters to teach them the ways of the wild, the use of firearms and true sportsmanship, which is the mark of the good hunter.



F. LAMAR CLEMENT a gun.

The question has been raised: when is a boy or girl old enough to handle a gun? The answer is: Father knows best. To begin with numerical age is no criterion as to when a youth should take to the fields with his Dad. If the youth demonstrates the qualities of responsibility, he is ready to carry a gun and hunt under Dad's supervision. If a youth can be relied upon, for an instance, to baby-sit, he is responsible enough to carry a gun.

But, no young would-be nimrod should be allowed to participate in the field until he has had extensive training in the mechanics of the gun he is to use and the cardinal rules of gun-handling safety. Dad, or another adult instructor, well-versed on gun matters, should be certain that the youngster has a thorough understanding of the working parts of a gun, its ammunition, and their interlocking functions.

The prospective hunter should be taught that any and every gun should be treated with the respect and caution due a loaded gun. Dad should show him that guns carried into camp, placed in an automobile, or when otherwise not in use, should be unloaded, or taken down or have actions open. He should be taught to be sure that the barrel and action of his gun are clear of obstructions before shooting and not to carry his ammunition mixed in his pockets with wrong-sized loads. He should be shown by example to emulate expert shooters who always carry their guns so that they can control the direction of their muzzles at all times even in the event they stumble. And foremost of all; the safety catch is always on until ready to shoot.

Dad should teach him to identify the game he is to shoot and never to pull the trigger until the nature of the target is recognized and, moreover, *never* to point a gun at anything he doesn't want to shoot.

While hunting with Dad, he should be shown how and where the hunter places his gun when passing obstacles and that ditch-jumping and fence climbing with gun in hand are strictly out. He should learn that shooting should be done in areas clear of people and buildings, and where possibilities of ricochet are at a minimum.

Once Dad or his instructor is satisfied he has learned his lessons well, he should be taken on a dry-run hunt. In this manner his performance, under the strict rules of gun safety, can be observed and the weak spots ironed out. Once he demonstrates all-round proficiency, then he is ready for one of the greatest thrills of his life . . . a real hunt with Dad.

Now four million Dads can hardly be wrong . . . IF their youngsters are responsible, level headed and well trained . . . THEN they are ready for the hunt.

The Fabulous

Mississippi Flyway

FOLLOWING that mysterious pattern of migration, the vast flights of winter waterfowl have funneled down the great Mississippi Flyway from their Canadian breeding grounds to reach their bottleneck at "land's end" on our continent over Louisiana's 6,000,000 acres of waterfowl habitat. Some will spend the winter, others are transients and will push on down southward to the continent below.

Obedying this strange urge, which no theory quite explains, these flights arrive, as they always have, between October 28 and November 8, and disperse helter-skelter over every available lake, pool, pond, slough, marsh and river in our state.

Even before that time, the blue-winged teal, leaders of the migration and first to arrive, will have departed for waters further south. These departing wildfowl are replaced by great flights of pintail, mallards, green-winged teal and simultaneously the snow and blue geese begin to appear in Louisiana.

By then, with the heavy flights pouring in, it will be 30 minutes before sunrise, November 1, and a barrage of more than 100,000 shotguns in the hands of anxious nimrods will lift most of the ducks and geese from the marshes, ponds and lakes with a deafening cannonade. As has been usual in the past, in the confusion, large numbers of ducks will settle back down towards the many clusters of objects (decoys) that will resemble their own kind, toward the raucous calling that will emerge from every blind and pirogue.

As the flocks wheel and turn, the guns will reach out from 50 to 125 yards away and the Louisiana 1958-59 waterfowl hunting season will have begun.

Later in the day, when the shooting will have ceased, and as the afternoon wears on, the young ducks will seek out the old ducks that have quickly settled into the nearest refuge or undisturbed area for the day. Later, during the night, the ducks will move out from the refuge to feed and with the poor light of the first mornings they will be met with a hail of "in range" shot from the more seasoned hunters. This time many ducks will begin to plummet to the earth while the survivors will fly back madly to the nearest refuge for the day. After a few days when the ducks have learned to move back quickly to the nearest refuge for the day and stay there until night before venturing back to feed again, the balance will be on the side of the hunted rather than the hunter. Then will be the time for the test of the real hunter, the expert with gun, call and decoys and the like . . . this will be the time to separate the men from the boys . . . the duck hunting season in Louisiana will really have begun in earnest.



The chief waterfowl concentration areas over the state will be as follows:

NORTH LOUISIANA

1. Coulee Refuge (Mallards)
2. Wham Brake (Mallards)
3. Mississippi River . . . Flooded Mud Flats and oxbow lakes (Mallards, Gadwalls, Green-Winged Teal, ringnecked ducks) . . . Resting middle of river.

CENTRAL LOUISIANA

1. Catahoula Lake (Pintails, Mallards) (Refuge-daytime) (flooded chufa flats)
2. Sunk, Grassy, Cross lake (Mallards) (secluded regions)

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

1. White Lake Marshes (Mallards, Pintails, Canada Geese)
2. Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge (Mallards, Pin-

(Turn to Page 24)



Bob Hines.

350,000 Waterfowl In Louisiana

MORE THAN 350,000 waterfowl were observed over Louisiana marshes, lakes and ponds in an aerial survey made in early October for the LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST by Morton Smith, Waterfowl Study Leader for the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. This early concentration would indicate that more than 1,000,000 ducks should await our hunters at daybreak November 1, Smith says.

During the normal winter with satisfactory habitat conditions, Louisiana will winter approximately 2,000,000 ducks, 450,000 geese and 100,000 coots. It also serves as a temporary stopping off point for an additional transient population of 1,000,000 more ducks and 300,000 coots.

According to Richard Yancey, Chief of the commission's refuge division, the stands of wild millet over the marshes of practically the entire southwest section of Louisiana are the most profuse that have been seen in ten years or more. One of the causes of the "outbreak" of the lush growth of millet, which is a favored duck food, may have been Hurricane Audrey over a year ago, Yancey says. The extremely high winds of the hurricane caused wide gaps to be torn in the existing vegetation over the marsh and the holes dug by the winds were refilled with fresh water due to the extreme rainfall which followed, thus making the terrain excellent for the growth of millet which is growing over six feet high in some places, Yancey says.

For the above stated reasons, it is obvious that Louisiana will be particularly attractive to waterfowl this season and should be carrying an excellent supply of waterfowl throughout the winter for hunting purposes.

The state is presently managing five public shooting grounds specifically for waterfowl. They are the 65,000 acre Pass-a-Loutre area at the mouth of the Mississippi river where hunters are taken from Venice by boat to state owned and operated hunting camps, supplied with pirogues, cooking facilities, sleeping quarters and the like, all for five dollars for the two-day trip. The hunters are of course chosen from applications drawn by lot for the hunts which are held twice a week. There are also four additional public hunting grounds, however, at these places the hunter is "on his own" as the commission affords no such facilities there as it does at Pass-a-Loutre. These shooting grounds are the Biloxi Tract, south and east of Lake Borgne near Shell Beach; Wisner Shooting grounds, between Leesville and Grand Isle; LaFourche Shooting preserve, east of Monroe; Shiloh Creek Shooting preserve, near Monroe and Bodcau Bayou Shooting preserve north and west of Minden. In addition, Louisiana contains several impoundments which have been constructed by the state which the com-

mission is not managing for waterfowl. These areas such as Lake Bistineau, Black, Clear and Saline Lakes, Turkey Creek, Cheniere Brake and Anacoca Lake are open to the public for duck hunting and are used to a slight degree by waterfowl.

Besides these areas it is estimated that Louisiana contains approximately 300,000 acres of commercial waterfowl hunting areas where a fee is charged by individuals. These areas make up about 5.0 percent of the total waterfowl habitat in the state and occupy many of the most choice duck and goose areas. Most of the commercial hunting grounds are found in Southwest Louisiana's marshes and rice fields.

It is also roughly estimated that the state contains about 3,000,000 acres of private hunting areas which are leased or owned by private individuals for their exclusive use. This includes approximately all of the coastal marshlands in Southwest Louisiana not enclosed by a commercial area or refuge, many of the rice fields in Southwest Louisiana, much of the coastal marsh areas in Southeast Louisiana, and a small but ever increasing percentage of the up-state waterfowl habitat. The free range or unposted areas comprise an estimated 1,150,000 acres which are used by waterfowl. This makes up to about 19% of the waterfowl use area in the state, but most of it is unsuitable for hunting.

The question has often been asked, "How do the Wild Life and Fisheries commission's biologists and waterfowl study leaders arrive at their figures on waterfowl populations?" The answer to this lies in



Tons of duck food from this pure stand of wild millet will be available to waterfowl in the marshes of Cameron Parish during the coming winter.

an explanation as to the background of how these aerial inventories came about.

The need for some information on the distribution and migration of waterfowl within Louisiana was recognized by Richard Yancey at the start of Pittman-Robertson Project 17-R in 1949. It was felt that a reliable inventory of the state waterfowl population would provide valuable information for the proper management of the resource.

In 1949 and 1950 counts were made of the waterfowl on five selected lakes in north Louisiana by means of boat and ground studies. While valuable information was obtained, it became apparent that the data could not be applied to the whole state and certainly not to the coastal marshes.

A quick look at the coast showed that any extensive waterfowl inventory by boat or on foot was impossible. It was the opinion of biologists, such as John Lynch of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service who have had a great deal of experience in this type of inventory, that statewide coverage in Louisiana could be obtained only by the use of aircraft. John Lynch and Richard Yancey got together and set up an inventory of the Louisiana coastal marshes. John Lynch was a pilot and had experience in aerial census from his work on the Canadian breeding grounds . . . He also had an airplane.

In 1951 he provided the plane and, with Yancey as his observer, flew the Louisiana coastal marsh every two weeks from September 1951 through January 1952. The marsh area to be covered was estimated at 9,000 sq. miles and it was obviously impossible to look at each and every acre. A system of aerial transects were set up to provide an index to waterfowl population over the entire marsh.

The method used in estimating the waterfowl population of the marsh was as follows:

The pilot and observer would fly a transect at altitudes of 75 to 100 feet at speeds of 70 to 80 miles per hour. Such flying can be hazardous and there have been two forced landings to-date. Fortunately,



Heavily laden seed heads of wild millet. A very choice waterfowl food plant. Cameron Parish, August, 1958.

no one was injured nor was the aircraft damaged. The pilot would count all ducks on the left side of the aircraft as far out as one eighth of a mile. The pilot would call the number and species to the observer who would record same on a form. In addition the observer counted and recorded all waterfowl on the right side of plane out as far as one eighth mile. Thus a quarter mile strip was covered in which all waterfowl were counted and recorded by species. The size of large flocks and concentrations were estimated. Heavy waterfowl concentrations on refuges were total counted rather than covered in transect. At the end of a flight approximately two to three percent of the marsh had been transected and all waterfowl seen recorded by species and number. These transect figures were then converted into a population figure



Joe Herring, District Biologist of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries commission, who took part in the Canadian banding program this year, is shown removing ducks from a trap in the Wolseley area.



Ducks shown at left were trapped and banded near Wolseley, Saskatchewan, Canada this year. The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission annually cooperates in this banding program.

for the entire marsh. Of course the result was only estimate but it was far more accurate than any other method tried.

While the transect work was going on in south Louisiana, similar waterfowl count were being made in north Louisiana by Morton Smith (observer) and Nelson Summerell (pilot).

Because of differences in topography, a system of total counts on key areas was used rather than transects. The same areas were checked every two weeks and gains and losses in the duck population recorded.

A review of the 1951 inventory work in the marshes and north Louisiana indicated that valuable information for the management of waterfowl was being gathered. So, the commission purchased an airplane in 1952 and began an annual survey of the waterfowl resource in Louisiana. These counts were made every two weeks, weather permitting, and have continued from 1951 to the present date. Few changes have been made in the transect and total count areas.

Starting in 1954, all the states in the Mississippi Flyway joined in a cooperative bi-weekly inventory of the flyway waterfowl population. Because of the earlier work in this state, Louisiana was able to provide valuable assistance to this effort. Richard Yancey, and later Morton Smith, served as chairmen of this committee and after three years' work, the Mississippi Flyway states were able to produce a comprehensive report of waterfowl distribution and migration in the flyway.

Aerial inventories are expensive and there must be reasons for the work. The inventory allows Louisiana to:

- (1) Determine the pattern of distribution, by species, for waterfowl over the state throughout the fall and winter.

- (2) Determine migration dates and time of local movements of waterfowl.
- (3) Determine peak abundance by species as an aid in setting hunting season dates.
- (4) Gather information on various ungunned species that pass through flyway prior to opening of any hunting season (Example: blue-winged teal).
- (5) Gather information on area usage by waterfowl as an aid in determining importance of individual lakes, etc., for wetlands preservation



A close up view of the ring-neck duck nest photographed near Humboldt, Saskatchewan, Canada.



These two ducklings were banded in Canada this year. On the left is a Red Head and at right a Canvasback. Notice similar coloration but species can be identified by the shape of the bills.

purposes and as an evaluation check on waterfowl development in each state. (Such information has been used in controversies on Catahoula Lake and the proposed New Orleans Tidewater Channel).

- (6) Determine types of habitat preferred by various species of waterfowl (used as an aid in selecting development projects).
- (7) Set a base for detecting future changes in flyway migration pattern (past examples of change in habits are shown by the ring-necked duck which is far less abundant in Louisiana than formerly. It is possible that similar changes are now occurring in mallard distribution.)
- (8) Gather information, in a few cases, on crop and marsh damage by waterfowl.

As waterfowl regulations become more complex, with various limits on a variety of species, and waterfowl developments increase in cost, the data gathered on the waterfowl inventories will be used more and more in the proper management of the resource. The data will also serve a major purpose in identifying the important waterfowl areas of the State and perhaps assist in saving them from unwise development or destruction.

In the first three years all the Louisiana men worked in the western one third of Saskatchewan. Biologist Joe Herring in 1958 worked the eastern one third of Saskatchewan.

The crew of four men banded 2,364 ducks. Again about 30,000 ducks were banded through the cooperation of all agencies.

Emphasis is placed on banding mallards and they are one of the more common ducks banded. In addition large numbers of the blue-winged teal, pintail and shoveler are caught. Other species like the gadwalls, canvasback redheads and scaup are more difficult to trap and comparatively few are banded.

Crews with trained retrievers are used to catch young and flightless mallards on small water areas. Any hunter knows how a wounded mallard can hide in the grass and the young ducks act the same way.

"It is a joy to see these well trained dogs find the ducklings and bring them to the bander. Some of the finest dogs I have ever seen were working with these banding crews," Herring says.

The banding operation is hard and often dirty work. Portable traps with long V-type wire leads are set on the prairie sloughs. Since the ducks cannot fly, they can be driven into the traps and banded.

There may be many a slip between the start and the end however, and often few or none are caught. Waders are used because the water is cold and sometimes infested with an "aquatic chigger." This animal burrows into wet skin and itches like our southern chiggers.

Some returns have been received for the ducks banded in 1957. Most of the ducks banded in western Saskatchewan go to the Central and Pacific Flyways but some have been taken in Louisiana.

Pintails were reported from Gueydan and Lake Charles, a mallard from Kaplan, a canvasback from Lake Pechant, and blue-winged teal from Cameron and Pass-a-Loutre. Others were taken on the Atlantic Coast in the Caribbean, in Mexico and in South America.

"The sum total of all these band returns will eventually give us a better understanding of the production areas and migration routes of various species. The job is big, expensive and time consuming," Herring says.

"It can be completed only through the cooperative efforts of all agencies. The final result however will be better management of our waterfowl resource," Herring says.

However the Wild Life and Fisheries commission does not confine its tabulation of waterfowl to aerial surveys alone but also has its biologists participate in the Canadian Waterfowl Banding program each year where biologists from the various states gather and participate in the banding of young ducks at their breeding grounds in Canada.

Banding of waterfowl on a large scale in Canada has been going on since the late 30's. Beginning in 1954, the U. S. Fish and Wild Life Service altered their basic approach to banding in Canada and requested the aid of the various states in carrying on the expanded effort.

Louisiana sent men to Canada in 1954, 1955, 1957 and 1958 to participate in the banding effort. Richard Yancey and Carroll Perkins went in 1954 and their four men crew banded about 2,000 ducks.

In 1955 Charles Shaw and J. B. Kidd served on a four man crew which also banded 2,000 ducks.

Morton Smith was a member of a five man crew in 1957 which banded 6,400 ducks. The procedure was getting smoother and the crew leaders were learning their areas better. Over 30,000 ducks were banded in the three Canadian Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba through the combined efforts of all crews and agencies.



Wisner Public Shooting Area Open To Hunters

AS PER SCHEDULE, the Wisner Public Shooting Area, a 30,000 acre marshland area between Leeville and Grand Isle, which was leased last year from the City of New Orleans, by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries commission, will be open to public shooting this waterfowl season, F. Lamar Clement, Director, said.

The marshland area located in Lafourche parish and which is known as the Wisner tract, has been adequately marked with boundary markers, spaced 650 feet apart, so as to eliminate the possibility of hunters crossing erroneously into adjacent owner's lands, according to Robert Beter, district supervisor for the commission, in charge of the shooting grounds.

The tract will be open to the public this season regardless of the fact that full development of the area has not yet been completed. At present there are many blue-wing teal in this area and with the coming of the cold months many more species of waterfowl will migrate into the numerous ponds and bays of the vast tract, Beter says.

The next phase of this public shooting ground operation will entail the construction of numerous wooden and earthen type structures to maintain stable water levels in this marsh, and dragline operations will commence in the near future.

Widgeon grass is one of the main aquatics adapted to grow in the saline marshes of the Wisner area.

Controlled burning in and on the marsh areas is scheduled for this and the coming ten years of the lease which was made with option of renewal by the commission from the city. These burns will reduce the so-called climax plant species such as oyster grass and wire grass and the reduction of these grasses will make way for the growth of three-cornered grasses whose new emergent shoots are much favored by blue and snow geese.

The area offers splendid potentials for rails, especially the clapper rail, which is the largest and most numerous encountered on these marshes. The opening of the Wisner tract to the general public will provide

much needed public hunting opportunities in an area where thousands of acres are presently in the hands of private hunting clubs, large landowners and fur trappers.

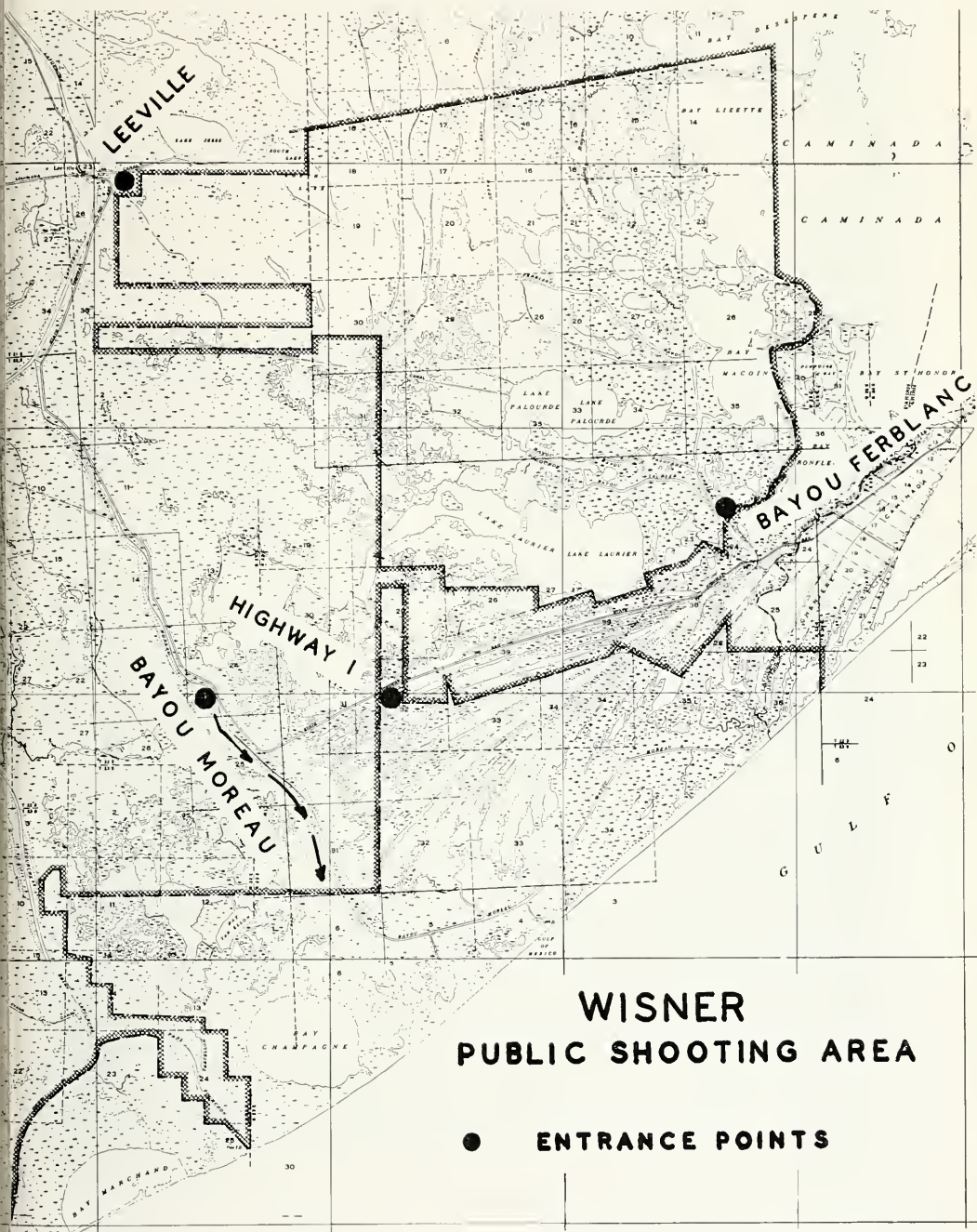
An ideal feature of the Wisner shooting grounds is that it is located on both sides of Louisiana highway 1 and easily accessible by automobile and numerous bayous and canals which afford entrance to and from the area along highway 1 between Leeville and Grand Isle.

Since none of the Wisner shooting grounds are under controlled shooting supervision, such as is practiced at Pass-a-Loutre, hunters may avail themselves of the privilege of arranging their blinds to suit their convenience. This is with the provision that it be kept in mind that the entire area is open to the public and that no one is privileged to erect a private or posted blind to be used exclusively by himself," Director Clement said.

The area lies roughly between Leeville and Caminada bay and is bounded on the north by the Southwest Louisiana canal, and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico. Hunters not familiar with the location of these shooting grounds will find an explanatory map on next page of this issue of the CONSERVATIONIST.



Commission personnel erect boundary markers on area.



September Is Busy Month For Enforcement Division

ONE HUNDRED and seventy three persons were arrested by game agents of the Law Enforcement division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries commission during the month of September, according to Rudolph P. Easterly, Chief of the division.

Arrests for hunting squirrels out of season led numerically with 48 arrests; arrests for taking undersized shrimp came next with 28 arrests, and arrests for hunting dove in closed season netted twelve violators.

Most flagrant of the violations was that of two hunters arrested for hunting deer out of season from a public highway at night with the use of lights. Arresting officers said a large doe deer taken in the men's possession showed evidence of having been suckling its young.

The apprehension of the pair, Leo J. Gonzales and S. B. Nunez, 52, both of Violet, came after a long vigil by game agents Emerson Ranson and Sam Nunez who had been watching for the pair who they sus-



Game agents of the Enforcement Division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission are seen with some of the twenty-one rabbits taken from juvenile hunters who were arrested while hunting the cottontails out of season with headlights and shotguns at night. Left to right are game agents Joe Fucha, Joseph L. Billiot, Paul Dauterive and Emerson Ranson.

pected were out night hunting. The agents, while on patrol, in the area, saw and heard three shots fired and a headlight being flashed. Upon arriving at the scene of the shots, the pair were apprehended and found with the lights, two shotguns, one loaded with buckshot and the doe deer that had just been slain. The men were arrested and charged in the St. Bernard parish court with hunting deer out of season with a headlight and hunting from a state highway.

In another arrest, agents Joe Fucha, Joe Billiot, Paul Dauterive and Emerson Ranson, on a tip from State Highway Patrolmen Merlin Flair and Frank Petit, rounded up two teenagers who were shining rabbits off Highway 90 between Chef Menteur and the Rigolets. When arrested, the juveniles were in the possession of 21 rabbits, shotguns and lights. They were charged with hunting rabbits out of season with headlights. Their names were withheld because of their ages.

Among the arrests made in September were those of four men for fish-shocking. Arrested, after a chase by agents at Bayou Magazille, in St. Martin parish, were Roy Gros and Louis Aucoin, both of Napoleonville, who were apprehended by Game agents Cullen Landry and Cecil Gilmore after the agents had observed the pair taking fish with the use of a shocking machine and a dip net. According to the agents, they surprised the pair with the shocking machine and 100 pounds of catfish on Bayou Magazille and when they attempted the arrest, the two fled into the woods; Gros carrying the shocking machine. Agents were unable to overtake Gros, however, they captured Aucoin who professed his innocence although he had been seen shocking the fish by the agents. Later, Gros was also arrested and both were charged with the offense.

In another arrest while patrolling in the vicinity of Grand River, game agents Leo G. Bulliard, Melvin Dupuis and Robert Romero observed two men in a speedboat who had been acting in a suspicious manner (speeding) and followed their boat to their wharf on the river. When the agents arrived, one of the men ran from the boat with a sack which they later learned contained a shocking machine. The man Robert Seymour, of Plaquemine, threw the sack over a neighbor's fence and escaped, the agents recovered the sack and machine and were told by the neighbor that Seymour had tossed the machine into his



This large doe deer was killed by two night hunters with headlights and shotguns who were arrested by game agents of the Enforcement Division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries commission. Left to right, game agents Joseph L. Billiot and Emerson Ranson.

yard and asked him to keep it, the neighbor refused and identified Seymour, whom they later arrested with Merrick "Buck" Lewis, also of Plaquemine who admitted having been Seymour's companion in the speedboat.

Later the agents found the battery and a dip net they said had been used by the fish shockers in their boat with 115 pounds of freshly killed catfish and found no other gear for taking fish. The pair were arrested and charged at St. Martinville with taking fish with an electrical device.

Under the new law, passed by the last session of the Louisiana Legislature, fish shocking violations carry for each offense a mandatory jail sentence of not less than sixty days and not more than twelve months, and in addition, at the discretion of the court, those convicted may be fined not less than one hundred dollars and not more than five hundred dollars, Captain Julius Book, Assistant Chief of the Law Enforcement division said.

BRUIN DIET

In the wild, the black bear probably eats relatively little fresh meat. Food consists of fruits, berries, rodents, carcasses, nuts, fish and insects. Even small cubs eat buds, leaves and grass.

TURKEY'S DIET

The wild turkey's diet is mostly vegetable in origin, though some insects, including grasshoppers, are eaten.



Capt. Charles Ventrella and Agent Junior Purpera are shown with confiscated fish shocking equipment.

LOUISIANA

PUDDLE OR DABBING DUCK CHARACTERISTICS

(Anatinae)

PUDDLE DUCKS commonly found wintering in Louisiana include mallards, pin tails, green winged teal, blue winged teal, baldpate, gadwalls, wood ducks, shovellers, and mottled ducks. All of these species exhibit common similarities as shown in the illustration.

While closely related these ducks show distinct differences in plumage characteristics, food habits and habitat preference. In migration they normally arrive separately and have different distribution patterns over the state.

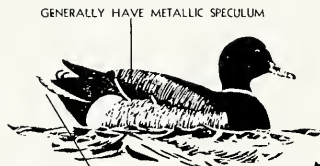
Puddle ducks normally follow a calendar life migration procedure each year. It has been found that each species arrives in Louisiana within a few days of the same date each year. The initial arrivals always precedes the mass migrations by two or three weeks. The major migrations also occur at almost exactly the same time each year. Blue winged teal are the first to arrive followed by pin tails, shovellers, baldpate, green winged teal, gadwall, and then mallards. This striking characteristic was determined by the Louisiana Wild Life & Fisheries Commission's statewide waterfowl inventory project conducted twice monthly since 1950.

Peak numbers of puddle ducks are usually to be found in Louisiana between December 15 and January 15. Normally this population varies between one and one-half and two million in number. This represents a relatively small percentage of the puddle ducks that actually use Louisiana's waterfowl habitat since the mallard is the only major species that is not partially transient to this state. Great number of pin tails, baldpate, shovellers, gadwalls, blue winged and green winged teal pass through Louisiana in the fall and winter further south in Mexico and South America.

These ducks respond very actively to the effects of



LEGS PLACED NEAR CENTER OF BODY



USUALLY SWIM WITH TAIL HELD CLEAR OF WATER



HIND TOE NOT LOBED

FOOT SMALLER THAN IN DIVING DUCKS



TIP UP TO FEED, RARELY DIVE



SPRING INTO AIR ON TAKE OFF

gun pressure with the exception of wood ducks and mottled ducks. Practically all of the puddle ducks move into the safety of the Refuges within two or three days after the start of each duck season. As much as eighty to ninety percent of the total puddle duck population is normally found on the Refuges or in protected areas while the hunting seasons are open.

WATERFOWL

THE BLUE-WINGED TEAL is the first migrant duck to arrive in the fall in Louisiana and the last to leave in the spring. As a transient this species seldom winters in the state in large numbers. While enroute to the wintering grounds in South America and vicinity great flights of blue-wings settle into the coastal marshes of south Louisiana and at Catahoula Lake to rest and feed before proceeding southward.

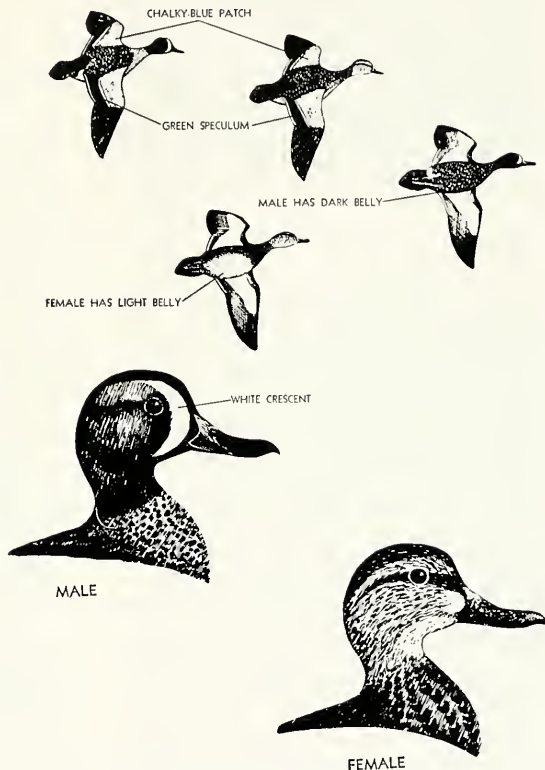
With calendar like regularity, their initial appearance occurs in the state between August 7 and 15th of each year. The migration intensifies with each passing day and reaches its peak between September 20 and October 20. It is seldom that more than 250,000 can be found in the state on any given day but this is only a small percentage of the total number that actually pass through. By November 1 of each year the exodus of blue-wings from Louisiana is virtually complete. Since the hunting season generally opens on this date only a few stragglers are normally bagged by duck hunters. Blue-wings generally make up only 1% to 2% of the total kill of ducks in Louisiana since they are largely absent during the hunting season.

This pattern of migration has led to a general clamor in the coastal areas for a special duck season during the peak of the fall migration about October 1. The contention is that the species escapes all shooting pressure but this is not entirely true. Large numbers are taken by hunters in the northern states of the Mississippi Flyway, since the hunting season opens there during early October while the migration of blue-wings is in progress. Those that arrive in Louisiana prior to October 3 or 4, are, however, ungunned in the Mississippi Flyway since they move southward just prior to the opening of any duck season. It is upon this vanguard flight that shooting pressure should be applied if the species is to be completely utilized as a game bird. The coastal marshes of south Louisiana do, of course, present a fine opportunity to take advantage of the harvest possibilities.

Northward bound blue-winged teal usually appear during early February to begin the spring migration back to the prairie nesting grounds in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. This flight reaches its peak about April 1 but large

BLUE-WINGED TEAL

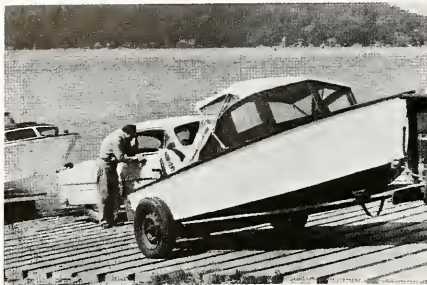
(*Anas discors*)



numbers are to be found throughout March and April. The spring migration is usually complete by mid-May, although small numbers may be observed as late as June 1. It is only for 2½ to 3 months that blue-winged teal are completely absent from Louisiana each year.

The continued appearance of these ducks in Louisiana during the years to come can best be insured locally by preserving the coastal marshes of south Louisiana. This region, as high quality waterfowl habitat, is now being consumed by the wheels of so called progress at an alarming rate. Once these marsh ponds, now occupied by dense stands of aquatic plants, are permitted to be destroyed the blue-winged teal can be expected to virtually disappear from the wildlife scene in Louisiana.

NEW OUTBOARD BOATING LAW PASSED BY LA. LEGISLATURE



Boating safety has become almost as important as highway safety.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S recent signing of an act empowering the U. S. Coast Guard to enforce stringent regulations in the safe handling of small power boats was preceded by Louisiana's "Uniform Pleasure Boating Act" which was passed by the recent legislature and signed by Governor Earl K. Long, July 6th, 1958. F. Lamar Clement, Director of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, said. In signing the small boat law the President has called upon all the states to adopt similar regulations.

In essence the Louisiana law is similar to the national one in that it was passed for the purpose of "furthering the public interest, welfare and safety by providing for the protection and safety in the operation of watercraft engaged in recreational boating."

However one of the regulations not provided for in the Louisiana law which is included in the new federal act is one providing for the numbering of all craft powered by motors in excess of ten horsepower. The federal law stipulates that in the event that a state does not adopt provisions for numbering such craft in accordance with the federal act by April 1, 1960, the Coast Guard will be charged with this responsibility.

Under the Louisiana act "watercraft" means any watercraft propelled in any respect by machinery, including those equipped with outboard motors or sails and these laws are applicable to all watercraft operating on all waterways of the state and these laws will supplement federal laws and regulations when not expressly inconsistent therewith on all waterways where such federal laws and regulations are applicable.

Enforcement of the new laws will be carried on by agents of the enforcement division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and all city, state and parish police officers.

The new regulations call for penalties for Careless and Reckless Operation; Negligent Homicide, Interference With Navigation; Intoxication; Incapacity of Operators; Overloading; Overpowering; Riding on

Decks and Gunwales of motor boats under 26 feet or less; Operating in Restricted Areas, such as those which have been clearly marked by laws of the state namely swimming areas and otherwise restricted areas.

The regulations also govern the operation of water skiing towboats and surf board towboats, and require that all boats, including even those propelled by "muscular power" shall carry a light of some sort, also all craft 16 feet or more in length must be equipped with hand or power operated whistles capable of producing a blast of two seconds or more duration and audible for at least one-half mile. All such craft with inboard motors shall be required to carry fire extinguishers and all motorboats other than those using outboards shall be required to be fitted with a U. S. Coast Guard approved device for arresting backfire. Regulations regarding mufflers and ventilators are also included.

Another provision of the act concerns racing and states "Nothing in the provisions of this act shall be construed to mean that the operator of a watercraft competing in a race or regatta, or trails thereof, which is duly authorized by an appropriate governmental unit, shall not attempt to obtain high speeds on an indicated racing course, nor while so engaged shall such watercraft be required to comply with certain specified sections of the act."

Through the passage of the act the state fully reserves to itself the exclusive right to regulate the operation and establish the minimum equipment requirements of recreational watercraft. "All other political subdivisions of this state are expressly prohibited from regulating pleasure watercraft in any respect, including, but not limited to, their operations, minimum equipment requirements, registration (with or without fee), or inspection."

Another clause in the law makes the owner liable for any injury occasioned by negligent operation of his craft no matter who the driver may be provided the operator had the owners' consent.

Penalties for violations of the new regulations range from \$25 to \$300 and also imprisonment one year. Violators may also be refused privilege of operating any watercraft on any of the waterways of the state for a period of not more than one year and if caught operating a watercraft during that period are subject to a \$500 fine or 90 days in jail or both at the discretion of the court. The Act is as follows:

ACT NO. 367

Senate Bill No. 256 BY: Mr. Sparks

AN ACT

To provide for the regulation of recreational boating in Louisiana.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Title and declaration of intent

The short title of this act shall be "Uniform Pleasure Boating Act". It is hereby declared that the pur-

pose of this act is to further the public interest, welfare and safety by providing for the protection and promotion of safety in the operation of watercraft engaged in recreational boating.

Section 2. Definitions

A. The term "person" includes any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, or body politic, except the United States and the State of Louisiana and includes any agent, trustee, executor, receiver, assignee or other similar representative thereof.

B. The term "Watercraft" means any contrivance used or designed for navigation on water.

C. The term "motorboat" means any watercraft propelled in any respect by machinery, including those temporarily equipped with detachable motors.

D. The term "sailboat" means any watercraft propelled by sail or canvas. For the purposes of this act, any watercraft propelled by both sail or canvas and machinery of any sort shall be deemed a motorboat when being so propelled.

Section 3. Application and justification

The provisions of this act shall be applicable to all watercraft operating on all of the waterways of this state. The provisions of this act shall be construed to supplement federal laws and regulations when not expressly inconsistent therewith on all waterways where such federal laws and regulations are applicable.

Section 4. Careless Operation

Any person who shall operate any watercraft in a careless or heedless manner so as to be grossly indifferent to the person or property of other persons,

DON'T OVERLOAD

Seats do not indicate capacity. Two or three adults may be a full load under many conditions.



KEEP LOW

And step in the center when boarding the boat or changing seats.



or at a rate of speed greater than will permit him in the exercise of reasonable care to bring the watercraft to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead, shall be guilty of the crime of careless operation, punishable by a fine of not more than \$300.00, or by imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 5. Reckless Operation

Any person who shall operate any watercraft in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb, or damage the property of any person, shall be guilty of the crime of reckless operation, punishable by imprisonment of not more than 90 days, or by a fine of not more than \$500 or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 6. Negligent Homicide

Any person who, by the operation of any watercraft at an immoderate rate of speed, or in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner, shall cause the death of another, shall be guilty of the crime of negligent homicide, punishable by imprisonment of not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 7. Interference with Navigation

No person shall operate any watercraft in a manner which shall unreasonably or unnecessarily interfere with other watercraft or with the free and proper navigation of the waterways of the state. Anchoring under bridges or in heavily traveled channels shall constitute such interference if unreasonable under the prevailing circumstances.

Section 8. Intoxication

A. It shall be unlawful for any person who is intoxicated or under the influence of narcotic or habit forming drugs to operate or be in actual physical control of any watercraft.

B. It shall be unlawful for the owner of any watercraft or any person having such in charge or in control to authorize or knowingly permit the same to be operated by any person who is intoxicated or under the influence of narcotic or habit forming drugs.

Section 9. Incapacity of Operator

It shall be unlawful for the owner of any watercraft or any person having such in charge or in control to authorize or knowingly permit the same to be operated by any person who by reason of physical or mental disability is incapable of operating such watercraft under the prevailing circumstances.

Section 10. Accidents

The operator of any watercraft involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to any person or in serious damage to property shall immediately stop such watercraft at the scene of such accident and shall give his name, address, the name and/or number of his watercraft, and the name and address of the owner, to the person struck or the operator or occupants of the watercraft collided with or property damaged, and shall render to any person injured in such an accident reasonable assistance, and shall promptly report such accident to the nearest or most convenient law enforcement agency or office.

Section 11. Overloading

No watercraft shall be loaded with passengers or cargo beyond its safe carrying capacity taking into consideration weather and other existing operating conditions.

Section 12. Overpowering

No watercraft shall be equipped with any motor or other propulsion machinery beyond its safe power capacity taking into consideration the type and construction of such watercraft and other existing operating conditions.

Section 13. Riding on Decks and Gunwales

No person operating a motor boat of 26 feet or less in length shall allow any person to ride or sit on either the starboard or port gunwales thereof or on the decking over the bow of the vessel while underway unless such motorboat is provided with adequate guards or railing to prevent passengers from being

lost overboard. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that passengers or other persons aboard a motorboat cannot occupy the decking over the bow of the boat to moor the watercraft to a mooring buoy or to cast off from such a buoy, or for any other necessary purpose.

Section 14. Restricted areas

No person shall operate a watercraft within a water area which has been clearly marked, in accordance with, and as authorized by, the laws of the state, by buoys or some other distinguishing device as a bathing, swimming or otherwise restricted area: Provided, That this section shall not apply in the case of an emergency, or to patrol or rescue craft.

Section 15. Water Skiing

A. No motor boat which shall have in tow or shall be otherwise assisting a person on water skis, surf-board or similar contrivance, shall be operated or propelled in or upon any waterway, unless such motorboat shall be occupied by at least two competent persons: Provided, That this subsection shall not apply to motorboats used by representatives of duly constituted water ski schools in the giving of instruction, or to motorboats used in duly authorized water ski tournaments, competitions, expositions, or trails therefor.

B. No motorboat shall have in tow or shall otherwise be assisting a person on water skis, surf-board or similar contrivance from the period of one hour after sunset to one hour prior to sunrise: Provided, That this subsection shall not apply to motorboats used in duly authorized water ski tournaments, competitions, expositions, or trails therefor.

C. All motorboats having in tow or otherwise assisting a person on water skis, surf-board or similar contrivance, shall be operated in a careful and prudent manner and at a reasonable distance from persons and property so as not to endanger the life or property of any person.

Section 16. Lights

A. Watercraft propelled by muscular power when underway shall carry on board from sunset to sunrise, but not fixed to any part of the boat, a lantern or flashlight capable of showing a white light visible all around the horizon at a distance of 2 miles or more, and shall display such lantern in sufficient time to avoid collision with another watercraft.

B. All sailboats and all motorboats 26 feet or more in length shall carry and display when underway such additional or alternate lights as shall be required by the U. S. Coast Guard for watercraft of equivalent length and type.

C. Every sailboat and every motorboat propelled by sail and machinery shall carry a bright white lantern or flashlight ready at hand which shall, upon the approach of another watercraft, be exhibited and shall be flashed continually upon its sails in sufficient time to avert collision.

D. Dinghies, tenders and other watercraft, whose principal function is an auxiliary to other larger watercraft, when so operating need carry only a flashlight visible to other craft in the area, anything in this section to the contrary notwithstanding.

Section 17. Mufflers

It shall be unlawful to use a motorboat unless the

same is provided with an efficient muffler, under-water exhaust or other modern device capable of adequately muffling the sound of the exhaust of the engine.

Section 18. Whistles

Watercraft 16 feet or more in length shall carry a mouth, hand or power operated whistle capable of producing a blast of 2 seconds or more duration and audible for at least one-half mile.

Section 19. Fire Extinguisher

All inboard motorboats and all other watercraft 16 feet or over in length shall carry at least one U. S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher, so placed as to be readily accessible and in such condition as to be ready for immediate and effective use.

Section 20. Carburetors

Carburetors on all engines of motorboats other than those propelled by a detachable outboard motor shall be fitted with a U. S. Coast Guard approved device for arresting backfire.

Section 21. Ventilators

All watercraft, other than those which are entirely open, carrying or using fuel or any other inflammable or toxic fluid in any enclosure, shall be provided with an efficient natural or mechanical ventilation system, which shall be capable of removing resulting gases prior to, and during, the time such watercraft is occupied by any person.

Section 22. Racing

Nothing in the provision of this act shall be construed to mean that the operator of a watercraft competing in a race or regatta, or trials therefor, which is duly authorized by an appropriate governmental

HEAD INTO THE WAVES

If waves are high, head your boat at an angle towards the waves at slow speed.



USE THE RIGHT MOTOR

Too much power can damage your boat—may even swamp it. Look for OBC recommended horsepower plate.

unit, shall not attempt to attain high speeds on an indicated racing course, nor while so engaged shall such watercraft be required to comply with the six last preceding sections of this act.

Section 23. Local Regulations Prohibited

Through the passage of this act, the state fully reserves to itself the exclusive right to regulate the operation and establish the minimum equipment requirements of recreational watercraft. All other political subdivisions of this state are expressly prohibited from regulating pleasure watercraft in any respect, including but not limited to, their operations,

minimum equipment requirements, registration (with or without a fee), or inspection.

Section 24. Owner's Responsibility; Presumption of Ownership

The owner of a watercraft shall be liable for any injury or damage occasioned by the negligent operation of such watercraft, whether such negligence consists of a violation of the provisions of the statutes of this state, or in the failure to observe such ordinary care in such operation as the rules of the common law require. The owner shall not be liable, however, unless such watercraft is being used with his or her express or implied consent. It shall be presumed that

more than \$500, or by imprisonment of not more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment within the discretion of the court.

Section 27. Severability clause

If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

Approved by the Governor, July 6, 1958.

A true copy:

Wade O. Martin, Jr.

Secretary of State.



KNOW YOUR BOAT

Every boat has its limitations. Learn what you can expect from your boat.

BALANCE YOUR LOAD

Distribute weight evenly in the boat—from side to side and from bow to stern.

such watercraft is being operated with the knowledge and consent of the owner if, at the time of the injury or damage, it is under the control of his or her husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter or other immediate member of the family.

Section 25. Enforcement

It shall be the duty of all peace officers and game wardens of this state and all political subdivisions thereof to enforce the provisions of this act.

Section 26. Penalties

A. Any person who shall violate sections 7 through 15, inclusive, of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300, or by imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment within the discretion of the court.

B. Any person who shall be convicted of a violation of sections 4, through 15, inclusive, of this act, in addition to any other penalties authorized herein, may in the discretion of the court be refused the privilege of operating any watercraft on any of the waterways of this state for a period of not more than one year.

C. Any person who shall violate any of the other provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$25.00.

D. Any person who shall operate any watercraft during the period when he had been denied the privilege to so operate by virtue of the second preceding subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not

FISHING FEVER!

By Heloise Broussard

ORINARY FEVER usually starts with a headache and a cold, but fishing fever when it hits really hits! Take the case of fever my husband has . . . He never was very interested in fishing until a few months ago. It all started very calmly . . . first, the purchase of a common bamboo pole and plain hook and bottle cork . . . Next, a three-section screw-type bamboo pole with fancy floating stopper . . . Then various artificial lures, such as, Champion, Hawaiian Wiggler and Super Dude.

About this time, a slight increase in fever with the purchase of a casting rod, then a fly rod and much filling up of the Ice Chest with sardines, cold meats, cheese, and to be sure . . . plenty of cold drinks . . . and fishing, fishing, fishing! Just about the time he decided he had all the necessary fishing gear, he figured a kakhi cap and cover-all suit was necessary. And oh! . . . a minnow net to get those nice little minnows for bait for the big sac-a-lait!

Well so much for the fresh water fishing . . . Now, off to Cypremort Point for the speckled trout, croakers, drum, and of course, crabs. What? . . . Crabs? . . . Naturally, a long handled crab net and a few drop nets . . . Rent a motor . . . rent a boat . . . hurry, hurry, hurry . . . the specs are hitting . . . the Cove is loaded with crabs . . . fish, fish, fish . . . crab, crab, crab . . . sun getting hot . . . but, of course, buy an umbrella for the boat . . . Why rent the motor? Let's buy one . . . Sure, only \$60.00 secondhand, and 7 HP too! . . . Say, some pretty nice little camps on the Point for sale . . . Only \$2000 plus land lease . . . whatdaya say, Mamma?

Well, what can you tell a man when he's delirious with fishing fever! I've said "Yes" because . . . did you know . . . fishing fever is contagious! and I've had it for years . . . caught it from my Dad!!! Any cure??? . . . Sure, "GO FISHING!" . . . often, . . . but watch for that rope and anchor! . . . 'cause Poppa don't 'low no foolishness in his rented boat when he has THE FEVER!!!!

The New CONIBEAR Trap

A NEW and entirely different kind of animal trap is making its way into the Louisiana marsh-land areas. Said to be of a more humane nature, this trap has been undergoing extensive testing on muskrats and the all-too-numerous nutria that have been causing the rice and sugar cane growers of the coastal regions much concern.

The new trap, which was appropriately named after its inventor, Frank Conibear, is said to include the first radical change in trap design since Sewell Newhouse invented the famous leg-hold trap in 1848.

The origin of the Conibear trap goes back to 1929 when a Canadian trapper, Frank Conibear, began his first attempts to design a new trap that would be more humane in nature. The snow-covered wilderness areas of northwestern Canada provided him an excellent setting for his experimentation since fur-bearing animals were plentiful. Too, Conibear had a wide



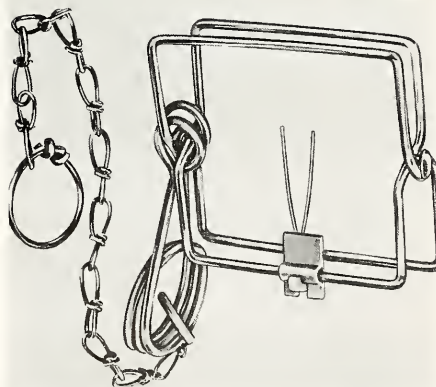
Proof enough that the new trap will catch and dispatch nutria in a very short time.

variety of animals in the vicinity on which to test his new trap.

For several years after he had designed and tested his first model it was touch and go with Conibear. It seemed that his trap was doomed for failure as have so many other models designed to kill animals quickly upon capture. Lacking the necessary capital to further his idea Conibear abandoned his traps in 1944 to become a carpenter in Victoria.

In the meantime, humane societies throughout the world kept up their campaigns for traps that would kill quickly and lessen the suffering of wild animals. It was not until three years ago, however, that an improved model of the Conibear trap was declared a success after extensive field testing. Stronger springs and a new triggering device brought about these needed improvements . . . improvements that have meant the difference between success and failure.

The name of the trap has been changed somewhat but the principle has not. Now known as the Victor Conibear trap since being acquired by the Animal Trap Company of America, the trap is being manufactured in more than one size. The number 110 is said to be exceptionally effective on muskrat, mink,



The Frank Conibear trap, now known as the Victor Conibear, is said to be the nearest approach to a humane animal trap.



This close-up shows how the new Conibear trap will catch and kill large animals like the nutria.

opossum, skunk, weasel, barn rat, civit cat and other animals of similar size.

The special trigger construction permits the Victor Conibear trap to be baited for that type of set or to



Malon White is shown setting the first Conibear trap to catch a nutria in the Louisiana marshland.

be used as a blind set. The trap may also be set in holes or runways. Apparently, it works as well submerged in water as on the ground. Very compact when folded in addition to being very lightweight, a trapper finds it comparatively easy to carry a goodly number of these traps as he makes his sets.

A departure from the older model "steel traps", the Victor Conibear has square jaws instead of the rounded type found in the former. The springs are coil type in place of the flat spring formerly used. Both, the springs and the jaws, are made of round steel rods.

The tests conducted recently in the marshlands a few miles south of Abbeville, Louisiana, were especially aimed at the nutria. The traps were hand-made in somewhat larger version than the model placed on the market last year. Although the traps did not perform as well as will the machined product that is to follow, the tests proved conclusively that the Victor Conibear will catch and will kill nutria. (see accompanying photos) The second trap set during the test run had a nutria in its jaws in just 20 minutes after setting.

1958-1959 Trapping Season

MUSKRAT—December 1 to February 25.

MINK—November 15 to January 10.

BEAVER—January 1 to January 30: Open only in East Feliciana, East Baton Rouge, Tangipahoa, Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, and Washington Parishes.

ALL OTHER LEGAL FURE BEARERS—November 15 to February 15.

ALLIGATOR—Coastal Parishes Only: St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary, Iberia, Vermilion, and Cameron.

Outlawed and May Be Taken at Will—May 1 to August 31.

Open Season—March 1 to April 30 and September 1 to October 31.

Closed Season—November 1 to February 28.

ALL OTHER PARISHES: Permanent Closed Season.

(It is unlawful to take or possess the eggs of alligators; alligators or their skins under two feet in any parish of this state.

TRAPPING LICENSE\$ 2.00
(Only residents, permitted to trap, does not allow hunting.)

FUR BUYER, RESIDENT LICENSE.....\$ 25.00

FUR BUYER, NON-RESIDENT.....\$100.00

FUR DEALER, RESIDENT (Deposit \$500.-

00 Required)\$150.00

FUR DEALER, NON-RESIDENT (Deposit

\$1000.00 Required)\$300.00

Secure license from parish Sheriff's office or Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, Wild Life and Fisheries Building, New Orleans 16, Louisiana.

Traps must be visited daily. No trapper may have more than 250 traps set in any one day.

MARKET FOUND FOR NUTRIA MEAT

A NEW OUTLET for Louisiana nutria meat has been developed by a former Director of Student activities at Tulane university, F. Lamar Clement, Director of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries commission, said today. The new product is a canned dog and cat food developed by Albert E. Holleman, now president of a marketing service who has been working in connection with experiments conducted by Louisiana State University for the past two years.

According to Ted O'Neil, Chief of the Fur division of the commission, this new outlet gives promise of higher incomes for thousands of Louisiana trappers who now will be able to market both nutria pelts and carcasses. "Heretofore, there has been much talk of marketing the nutria meat, however, Mr. Holleman is the first man to set up a system whereby trappers may bring their nutria meat to central locations and have their product purchased on a day-to-day spot cash basis and the new product is the first all-nutria meat product so far as we know to be canned for this purpose outside of that which is canned for human consumption, by producers of exotic foods," O'Neil said.

"The new pet food, which is called 'Neutria Dog and Cat Food', looks, smells and tastes like rabbit because it is made with fresh nutria meat from the marshlands of South Louisiana," Holleman says. "Hundreds of tests have proved that the food is preferred by most pets, especially dogs and cats who relish rabbit meat, and it is hoped that this new high protein vehicle will supplant the fast dwindling source of wild horse meat now being used," Holleman said.

Holleman, who also was Assistant Director of Athletics at Tulane and helped produce Tulane's famous football teams with the late "Doc" Smith, now heads the Southern Marketing Service, at Baton Rouge and Columbus, Mississippi. "Our job is to market anything from a new type apple peeler to a vicuna zipper, in fact, anything new, useful and saleable," he says. "The new nutria pet food is a result of years of research in trying to find a market for nutria meat and I, myself, and my associates, have conducted exhaustive tests on formulas to arrive at one that is most acceptable to veterinarians and is preferred by dogs and cats," Holleman said.

"Mr. Holleman, at the suggestion of Lieutenant Governor Lether Frazier, who is interested in the nutria outlet program, made a request to the commission to aid him in securing nutria carcasses from the landowners and trappers throughout the state," O'Neil said, "and the commission is trying to aid our people in securing a market for their meat and we are doing

everything possible to see that our nutria meat program does not fail.

"I have also been contacted by many people who have similar interest in collecting nutria carcasses, both for dog and cat, and mink food, and I am sure that there will be considerable competition this fall and winter for nutria meat.

"There will be price fluctuations due to increased interest and competition and it is understood that the commission has no control over landowners or trappers who wish to sell their carcasses for what prices they can command. Our purpose is to see the market established and to secure outlets for the nutria meat," O'Neil said.

A canoe is an object that acts like a small boy—it behaves better when paddled from the rear.

Auxiliary To Wildlife Biologists Association Is Formed

A N AUXILIARY of the Louisiana Wildlife Biologists Association has been recently organized, according to Gwen Kirtley Perkins, Oakdale, vice-chairman.

The objectives of this group are as follows, Mrs. Perkins says: 1. To gain a better understanding and knowledge of wildlife and biological sciences. 2. To cooperate with the Louisiana Biologists Association as they work to strengthen their profession and to establish and maintain professional standards. 3. To aid in securing adequate laws to benefit wildlife management and conservation. 4. To bring closer relationship between the biologists association and the general public.

Margie Stern of Baton Rouge is chairman of the new group, Mrs. Perkins, vice-chairman, and Mrs. Weta Roberts, Baton Rouge, secretary-treasurer. The group recently adopted the constitution and by-laws as drawn up by the special committee appointed for that purpose. Members of this committee were Mesdames, Rosalie Herring, Monroe; Evelyn Harrison, Alexandria; Joan Biglane, Baton Rouge; and Retha Murry, Simpson; Nadine Ensminger, Slidell; Merl Chabreck, Grand Chenier; and Jean Haygood, Minden were appointed to the Program Committee.

Among the projects undertaken by this organization are the establishment of a lending library on wildlife subjects, a monthly newsletter, and setting up recreational areas in various parts of the state for the use of the association. Sue Vernon of Alexandria has been placed in charge of the recreation program and assisting her in obtaining leases on various areas are Mrs. Murry, and Mrs. Doris Collins, Alexandria.

Mrs. Garnet Glasgow of Baton Rouge is in charge of the emblem for the auxiliary. Other charter members are as follows: Mesdames Geneva Bateman, Baton Rouge, Doris Brunet, Alexandria, Louise Davis, Monroe, Cora Lee Lafleur, Baton Rouge, Lorraine Lambou, Baton Rouge, Bonnie Smith, Baton Rouge, and Vidalia Wills, Ferriday.

*The
Handsome
Imitator*



THE BLUE JAY

(Cyanocitta cristata)

A LITTLE LARGER than the Robin, with a general color as blue as the name would indicate, the Blue Jay is a year-round resident of Louisiana and can be found in the back yards of the city as well as in the forest.

Wherever there are Blue Jays there is usually motion and color for, unlike some birds, he does not change his color with the change of season. He looks as he is, a bold, smart fellow with beedy eyes and long sharp bill. His reputation is not good as he kills the young of other birds.

The Blue Jay is a handsome and wicked clown. Whenever another bird discovers a blue jay lurking near his nest he immediately sets up an out cry making a terrible din. The Blue Jay sets up a terrible cry if he spies a supposed enemy thus warning all the other birds and animals that danger threatens.

The back of the Blue Jay is a violet blue, belly grayish, tail blue with white tips on all but the two center tail feathers, and a black ring around the head and neck. The crest is very conspicuous and will help in identifying the bird in the field.

The nest is made of rough sticks lined with grass,

pine-needles, paper or string. Three to six greenish olive colored eggs spotted with dark olive brown are laid and they hatch in about two weeks. Usually the hatching takes place only during the Summer with one brood per year.

After all is said about the bad habits of the Blue Jay, he still has some good points in his favor. He carries acorns, nuts and seedy fruits about, sometimes hiding them under leaves and then forgetting to pick them up. Thus a new vine or tree is planted.

Various kinds of insects, salamanders, frogs, spiders, mice, and sometimes small birds make up the diet of the sassy jay, and it will often destroy the eggs and attack the young of other birds. The jay will also eat fruits, berries, acorns and other types of mast and seeds.

It is hard to believe that a Blue Jay is a singer and also a mocker of other birds, but he has been known to give an almost perfect imitation of the cry of the hawk, thus playing a shabby trick on other little creatures of the forest. So in the Blue Jay, as in other living creatures, is found a little good and a little bad.

The State of Louisiana protects this handsome imitator.

LSU Gets Commission Grant

A GRANT of \$2,500.00 for research on free liquor content in oysters has been awarded Louisiana State University by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, F. Lamar Clement, director announced. The grant will be used by Dr. E. A. Fieger and Dr. A. F. Novak of the University's biology department who have been conducting an extensive research on the controversial subject of "free liquor" in oysters packed for local sale and shipment.

The oyster liquor, which is actually part of the bivalves and has great nutrient qualities recognized by scientists more than a century ago, has been the subject of controversy because shippers have been accused of "watering" the oysters to increase the weight and bulk of containers. Preliminary research has disclosed that the oyster actually gives off its liquor for at least five days after it is opened. This fact, if positively established through the research now being conducted, might settle further controversy on the matter between the consumers, packers and pure foods authorities and will greatly add to the sum total of what is now known about the oyster, James N. McConnell, Chief of the Oyster and Water Bottoms and Commercial Seafoods division of the commission told the body at its last meeting when the grant was awarded.

The commission also pledged its support of House Bill S. 4245 made at the request of the Louisiana Oystermen's association. The bill calls upon the Surgeon General of the United States to appoint a member of his staff to inspect oyster bedding waters in foreign countries before shell fish may be imported into the United States. "The foreign importers' shell fish should pass the same rigid sanitation inspection as our own domestic seafood products undergo," Joseph Jurisich, spokesman for the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers association, who made the request, said.

MICE SPUR WATERFOWL MIGRATION

A horde of lowly meadow mice, swarming over fields and stripping them of foodstuffs planted for ducks and geese, has forced thousands of waterfowl to hasten their migrational flight, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

It happened this past fall in the Klamath Basin, the famous waterfowl crossroads of the West that straddles the Oregon-California boundary. The tremendous build-up of field mice is causing concern among public health authorities as well as farmers and wildlife people. "What grain the mice have not eaten, they have buried for their winter stores," says the Oregon State Game Commission. "They have perforated ditch banks making water control difficult."

The mice appear to be increasing despite concentrated applications of poisons, and economic losses, at last report, exceeded \$5 million. Ironically, many disappointed waterfowl hunters are said to have blasted away at the large number of hawks and owls that were attracted by the army of mice.

ARE WE FRUSTRATING OUR FISH?

THERE HAS been a great deal written lately on the dangers of coddling our children. But who has mentioned the ever increasing problem of coddling our fish?

If we don't stop this namby pambying our fish, they are going to the dogs. Look around on your next fishing trip. Ever see a cane and a can of worms anymore? Every fisherman is weighed down with fishing gear: rods, reels and lures that are guaranteed to snap, crackle and pop. It has even been going around the fishvine that there's a buzzer now that calls the fish to the bait. Now, I wonder, is all this wise?

If you once buy a woman a fur coat, is she ever going to be happy with a cloth one again? Well, fish aren't much different, really. What self-respecting fish would be caught dead snapping at an old worm when the latest lures are all around? He'd be thrown out of school.

This coddling could grow into disaster proportions if not checked soon. With such a selection of baits, a breed of frustrated fish might develop, unable to make decisions for themselves, always looking for a better deal.

Personally, I suspect a subversive movement is trying to brainwash our fish and that a Congressional Fish Committee will have to be formed to investigate all matters of a fishy nature.

BEWARE OF ROBIN HOOD!

The early English kings were mighty hunters. Alfred the Great at the age of 12 was "a most expert and active hunter." One of the delights of Edward the Confessor was to follow a pack of hounds and "cheer them on with his voice." William the Conqueror loved "high" (that is, forest game) and, as every schoolboy knows, his son, William Rufus, was an early deer-hunting casualty.

To assure themselves hunting in any part of the kingdom, the early English kings promulgated and enforced "Forest Laws" under which large tracts of lands were set aside for the royal hunt. This led such irregularities as the deer-poaching escapades of Robin Hood and eventually to the Forest Charter whereby bounds were set on royal hunting privileges.

And this history affects us. For the idea that game is the property of the king appears in our legal code in the guise of "ownership of wild animals . . . insofar as they are capable of ownership, is in the state in its sovereign capacity for the benefit of all its people . . ." In a sense, therefore, every man is a king.

Harvest Those Cripples!



Most game agencies as well as local sportsmens groups are advocating the use of a good retriever on such game species as ducks, doves, quail and woodcock. Crippling losses have been mounting as more and more hunters take to the fields and streams. These losses could be prevented in most cases with the use of a good retriever.

WHAT CAUSES GUN BARRELS TO BURST?

WHENEVER A GUN barrel bursts, which occurs only about once in a blue moon, the shooter is unusually quick to blame the incident on faulty gun manufacture or defective ammunition. And he's usually *wrong* on both counts, according to C. G. Peterson of Remington Arms Company.

"Gun bursts don't just happen," says Peterson. "Most of them, by far, are due to thoughtlessness or carelessness on the part of the gunner. This is definitely reflected in the number of gun bursts that are caused by obstructions, such as foreign matter, in the barrel. Failure to remove a cleaning patch, or to clean out any blobs of mud or snow that may have lodged in the barrel as the gunner stumbled or fell, or even an excessive hunk of grease in the barrel, is enough to make a barrel burst exceedingly likely.

"A gun barrel will burst only if the pressure exerted by firing a shell or cartridge exceeds the strength of the barrel metal. What, then, causes excessive pressure? Three conditions under which excessive pressure is present are: a normal pressure load fired in a barrel made of steel not of the correct strength or containing a hidden flaw; a high pressure load fired in a normal and unobstructed barrel; a normal pressure load fired in a barrel of the correct strength but obstructed with some foreign matter.

"Because reputable American manufacturers subject the barrel steel to rigid laboratory tests before forging, carefully examine and inspect them for any possible flaws after forging and boring, with Magniflux (a form of X-ray) and then fire the finished product before it leaves the factory with 'proof' loads purposely loaded to pressures far in excess of those in standard commercial loads, the first two causes mentioned are extremely rare.

"It is the third cause (obstructed barrels) that makes the caution 'Always be sure that the barrel and action of your gun are clear of obstruction' a most important piece of advice in every safe gun handling program.

"All three causes are fairly easily identified by ballistics and gun manufacturing experts. If a gun barrel burst shows up as a straight crack or an open seam, it is conclusive evidence of a structural or material weakness of the barrel or a good barrel used with high pressure loads.

"In the instance of an obstructed barrel, a normal pressure load meets the obstruction, and passage of the shot column and wads is momentarily checked. Instantly, pressure builds up. The barrel wall swells at the obstruction location and the barrel having no capacity for further swelling, a burst occurs. But the tell-tale 'bubble' remains, revealing that an obstruction of some kind was the cause.

"Another cause for a barrel burst is a 20 gauge shell in a 12 gauge barrel or a 28 gauge shell in a 20 gauge barrel. Either will lodge in the barrel far enough ahead of the correct shell to permit the action to be closed and the gun to be fired. This usually ends in rather disastrous results, about the least of which is a ruined gun.

"Carelessness, or, to express it more charitably, lack

of caution, is the culprit in such instances as 20 gauge shells are plainly marked 'Use in 20 gauge guns ONLY' and 28 gauge shells are similarly identified. Such accidents are really inexcusable, yet they do happen. No hunter should carry more than one gauge of shells in his hunting coat at one time. Then there is no chance of such an accident. 'Check and double check' is surely worth while here.

"Here are a few tips to shooters that will cut down the incidence of gun barrel bursts and perhaps save some of us from a lot of suffering:

"Don't shoot a gun that has a dented or bent barrel.

"Don't shoot a gun that has any obstruction of any kind in the barrel.

"Don't mix shell gauges.

"Don't shoot shells known to have been stored for an extended period of time in temperatures above 130 degrees.

"Don't shoot smokeless powder shells in Damascus or twist barrel guns or fluid steel barrels made before smokeless powder came into general use. Such guns may not withstand the smokeless powder pressures that are considerably higher than the black powder pressures for which they were made.

"Don't shoot long shells in short chambers. The practice of squeezing 3-inch shells into guns chambered for 2¾ inch shells is exceedingly dangerous.

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

(Continued from Page 2)

- tails, Green-Winged Teal, White-fronted Geese, Canada Geese, Ring-necked ducks)
3. Rice Fields (Mallards, Pintails)
4. Rockefeller Refuge and environs (Green-Winged Teal, Shoveller, Gadwall, Blue and Snow Geese)
5. Audubon Refuge (Green-Winged Teal, Shovellers, Mallards, Pintails, Gadwalls)
6. State Wildlife Refuge (Green-Winged Teal, Shovellers, Mallards, Pintails, Gadwalls)
7. Marsh Island (Blue Geese, 5% Snow Geese)
8. East Cove-Sabine (Green-Winged Teal, Gadwall, Shovellers)
9. Gum Cove and environs (Canada Geese, few Mallards and Pintails, Gadwalls)

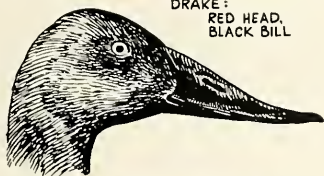
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

1. Mississippi River Delta (Blue, 5% Snow Geese, Gadwall, Mallard, Pintail, Scaup, Canvasbacks)
2. Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Blue, 5% Snow Geese, Gadwall, Mallard, Pintail, Scaup, Canvasbacks)
3. Pass-a-Loutre Public Shooting Grounds (Blue, 5% Snow Geese, Gadwall, Mallard, Pintail, Scaup, Canvasbacks)
4. Lake Borgne Marshes (Mallards, Gadwalls)
5. Avoca Marshes—Morgan City (Gadwalls, Green-Winged Teal)
6. Point Aufer (Mallards, Blue Geese)

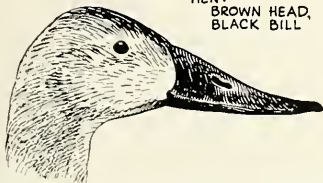
Following the closing day of hunting season on January 9, the ducks will again scatter from the refuges to the feeding grounds as soon as the hunting pressure is ended. Many people who see these ducks appear on their hunting areas will think new flights of ducks have arrived in Louisiana but it will be, of course, only a dispersal of refuge concentrations.

BAG LIMITS RESTRICTED FOR THESE TWO SPECIES IN THE ATLANTIC, MISSISSIPPI, AND CENTRAL FLYWAYS

DRAKE:
RED HEAD,
BLACK BILL



HEN:
BROWN HEAD,
BLACK BILL

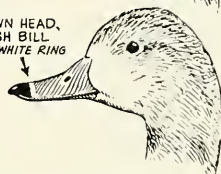


CANVASBACKS

DRAKE:
RED HEAD,
BLUISH BILL
with WHITE RING



HEN:
BROWN HEAD,
BLUISH BILL
with WHITE RING



REDHEADS.

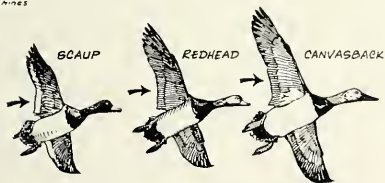
BOTH SPECIES ARE DIVERS, AND BOTH
PREFER LARGE BODIES OF OPEN WATER.

CANVASBACK

DRAKE-RED HEAD; BLACK AND WHITE BODY
HEN-BROWN HEAD AND BREAST; SLATE-BROWN BODY

REDHEAD

DRAKE-RED HEAD; BLACK AND GRAY BODY.
HEN-BROWN HEAD AND BODY.



FROM BELOW, WINGS OF CANVASBACKS AND REDHEADS
HAVE UNIFORMLY DARK EDGES. IN CONTRAST, SMALLER
SCAUP SHOW WHITE SPECULUM, OR "WINDOW."

DIVING DUCKS HAVE SHORT TAILS, AND THE LARGE FEET
ARE USED AS RUDDERS IN FLIGHT.



For positive identification:
LET 'EM COME IN CLOSE
BEFORE YOU SHOOT

Then you
KILL CLEAN OR
MISS CLEAN





WATERFOWL RETRIEVER

—Photo by Blackwell